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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/146,851 09/03/98 MCQUEEN

M 3522US (97-10

EXAMINER

MM42/0217

JOSEPH A. WALKOWSKI
TRASK BRITT & ROSSA
POST OFFICE BOX 2550
SALT LAKE CITY UT 84110

LE.D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2818

DATE MAILED:

02/17/00

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/146,851

Applicant(s)

MCQUEEN, MARK

Examiner

DUNG A LE

Art Unit

2818

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims 1-28 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been:
1. ☐ received.
2. ☐ received in Application No. (Series Code / Serial Number) ____.
3. ☐ received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. & 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 14) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 15) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 16) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 17) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) ____.
- 18) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 19) ☐ Other: _____

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Election/Restrictions

Claims 1- 28 are pending in this application.

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

Group I. Claims 1, 3-10, 19, 21-28, drawn to a semiconductor device, classified in class 257, subclass 546.

Group II. Claims 2, 11-18, 19, 20, drawn to process of making a semiconductor device, classified in class 438, and subclass 380.

2. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions II and I are related as process of making and product made. The inventions are distinct if either or both of following can be shown: (1) that the process as claimed can be use to make other and materially different product or by hand, or (2) that process as claimed can be made by another and materially different process. (MPEP § 806.05(f)). In the instance case unpatentabilities of the group I invention would not necessarily imply unpatentability of the group II invention, since the device of the group I invention could be made by the processes materially different from those of the group II invention, for example, in the claim 11, wherein said source contact plug extends between at least two source regions. Note specifically In re Thorpe et al. as detailed below:

Even though product – by process claims are limited by and defined by the process, determination of patentability is based on the product itself. The patentability of a product does not depend on its method of production. If the product – by – process claim is the same as or obvious from a product of the prior art, the claim is unpatentable even though the prior product was by different process. In re Thorpe, 227 USPQ 964, 966 (Fed. Cir. 1985) (citations omitted)

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3. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, the fields of search are not co-extensive. Therefore, separate examination would be required and restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.
4. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a diligently filed petition under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(h).
5. Any inquiry concerning this communication on earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dung A. Le whose telephone number is (703) 306- 5797. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM. The examiner's supervisor, David Nelms can be reached on (703) 308-4910. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 308-7724.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956

Dung A. Le *Dle*

Examiner
February 2, 2000


David Nelms
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800